



USMC Lightweight Helmet

Overview:

The USMC Lightweight Helmet will replace the currently fielded PASGT helmet on a one to one basis. The Lightweight Helmet is 15% lighter than the PASGT yet retains the current area of head coverage for maximum protection. The Lightweight Helmet provides a 6% increase in fragmentation protection and will also defeat high velocity 9mm handgun threats. The helmet is available in five sizes, XS through XL, and is sized the same as the PASGT.

Description:

The Lightweight Helmet provides a weight reduction with corresponding increase in ballistic protection. The new helmet is 0.5-lbs. (size medium) lighter yet also provides increases in fragmentation and handgun protection, comfort, stability and user acceptance. The helmet sizing is similar to the current PASGT, but can be tailored to fit the individual wearer by adjusting the headband for better circumference fitting and/or by adjusting the mesh comfort webbing on the top of the head for raising or lowering the helmet on the head. The helmet is also designed to be compatible with the ALICE, MOLLE and ILBE load carriage systems and Interceptor Body Armor along with an array of commonly used headgear. The Lightweight Helmet was fully tested at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center. Testing included ballistics, environmental conditions including saltwater immersion, POL (DEET, gasoline, chemical decontaminates and lubricating oils), extreme temperature (high and low) effects, and durability. The helmet was field tested for user acceptance at Twenty Nine Palms during a Combined Arms Exercise, where it received one of the highest ratings for a new piece of gear. The helmet is fielded completely finished and comes with two replacement headbands and a chinstrap.

Status:

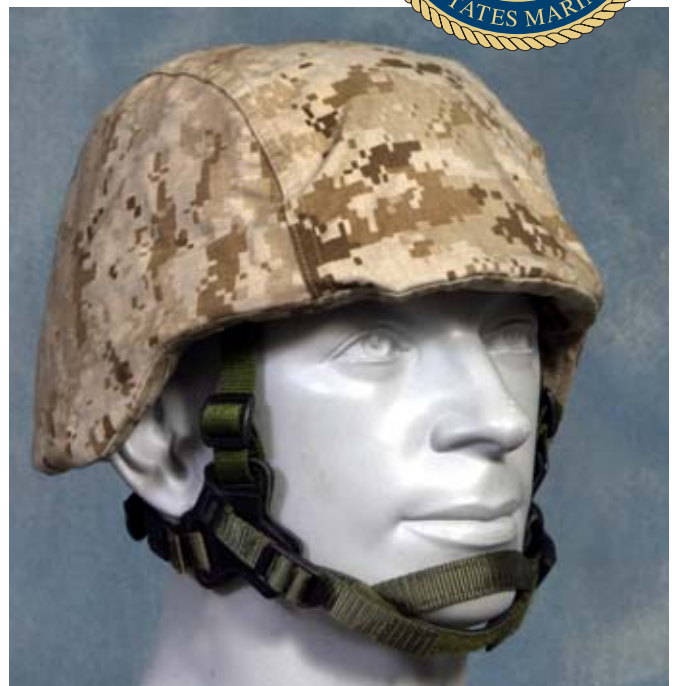
The Lightweight Helmet has been in production since June 2003 under a five-year contract awarded by the Robert Morris Acquisition Center – Natick. The contract award winner Gentex Corp. of Carbondale, PA is in the process of ramping up production. The new helmet can be completely fielded within four years. In FY06, DSCP will competitively award a new contract for sustainment.

Point of Contact:

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